

JAN 24 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**Appn. Number:** 10/649,000

**Appn. Filed:** 08/27/2003

**Applicants:** Curtis W. Thornton, and Alberto Diaz

**Title:** Surgical stapler with removable staple cartridge

**Examiner/GAU:** Brian D. Nash/3721

**Amendment A**

In response to Office Action mailed 2005 Dec. 21 and Examiner Interview Summary mailed 2006 Jan. 13. Please, amend the above application as follows:

**Specification:**

**Abstract: Change to –**

A surgical stapler which has an actuating trigger that is operable in three distinct positions. The actuating trigger works in combination with a forming tool and a window opening in a disposable staple cartridge to lock and align the centerline of a staple ready to be formed guaranteeing a smooth and precise insertion into a wound or incision.

**Claims:** Cancel all claims of record and substitute new claims 15 to 16 as follows.

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